

Serial No. 09/965,260
Examiner: David D. Hwu
Art Unit: 3752
March 10, 2005
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REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-17 and 31-33. By the present amendment, rejected claims 28 and 29 are cancelled. Claim 30, which was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, is rewritten in independent form as new claim 34 (claim 30 is thereby cancelled).

Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance with claims 1-17 and 31-34, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Date: March 10, 2005

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CUSTOMER NUMBER

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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Re application of:

Peter G. Thompson

Serial No.: 09/965,250

Filed: September 27, 2001

For: DUAL MODE SPREADER

Examiner: Davis D. Hwu

Art Unit: 3752

Attorney Docket No.: 28642/04044

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED OCTOBER 26, 2004

In response to the final Office Action mailed October 26, 2004, applicant hereby amends the claims and otherwise responds as follows. A check in the amount of \$88.00 is attached for one extra independent fee. It is believed that there is no other fee associated with the filing and consideration of this amendment. **Should the Commissioner decide that any fee or fee deficiency is due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any and all fees incurred as a result of entering this amendment and response to deposit account number 03-0172.**

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 8 of this paper.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A dual mode spreader comprising:
a hopper to hold a supply of spreadable material;
first and second discharge openings located within said hopper for which said spreadable material can flow therethrough;
an impeller mounted in a position below said hopper for rotational movement about an upright axis, said first discharge opening leading to said impeller to enable said spreadable material in said hopper to exit said hopper onto said impeller to be distributed in a path outwardly therefrom during the rotational movement of said impeller; and
a diffuser defining an inlet opening and an outlet opening, said second discharge opening in communication with said inlet opening to enable said spreadable material in said hopper to enter said diffuser and exit therefrom through said outlet opening to be distributed in a path downwardly therefrom onto the surface to be treated.
2. (original) A dual mode spreader according to claim 1 further comprising means for controlling the flow of said spreadable material through said second discharge opening.
3. (original) A dual mode spreader according to claim 1, wherein said diffuser further comprises a plurality of baffles and pins located within said diffuser that diffuse said spreadable material as said spreadable material falls therethrough to evenly distributed said spreadable material across the entire width of said outlet opening.
4. (original) A dual mode spreader according to claim 2, wherein said means for controlling the flow of said spreadable material comprises a gate means, said gate means being movable between an open position wherein said spreadable material can flow through said second discharge opening and a closed position.

5. (original) A dual mode spreader according to claim 4, wherein said gate means is incrementally adjustable between said open position and said closed position so that the flow of said spreadable material through said second discharge opening can be controlled.

6. (original) A dual mode spreader according to claim 5, wherein said gate means further comprises easily observable indicia making it possible to accurately identify the flow rate of said spreadable material between full flow of said gate open position and no flow of said gate closed position

7. (original) A dual mode spreader comprising:
a hopper to hold a supply of spreadable material;
first and second discharge openings located within said hopper for which said spreadable material can flow therethrough;
an impeller mounted in a position below said hopper for rotational movement about an upright axis, said first discharge opening leading to said impeller to enable said spreadable material in said hopper to exit said hopper onto said impeller to be distributed in a path outwardly therefrom during the rotational movement of said impeller; and
a diffuser comprising a first wall and a second wall defining an inlet opening and an outlet opening, said second discharge opening in communication with said inlet opening to enable said spreadable material in said hopper to enter said diffuser and exit therefrom through said outlet opening to be distributed in a path downwardly therefrom onto the surface to be treated, and wherein said first wall is removably mounted to said second wall thereby permitting access to the interior of said diffuser.

8. (original) A dual mode spreader according to claim 7, wherein said diffuser further comprises a plurality of baffles and pins located within said diffuser that diffuse said spreadable material as said spreadable material falls therethrough to evenly distributed said spreadable material across the entire width of said outlet opening.

9. (original) A dual mode spreader according to claim 8 further comprising means for controlling the flow of said spreadable material through said second discharge opening.

10. (original) A dual mode spreader according to claim 9, wherein said means for controlling the flow of said spreadable material comprises a gate means, said gate means being movable between an open position wherein said spreadable material can flow through said second discharge opening and a closed position.

11. (original) A dual mode spreader according to claim 10, wherein said gate means is incrementally adjustable between said open position and said closed position so that the flow of said spreadable material through said second discharge opening can be controlled.

12. (original) A dual mode spreader according to claim 11, wherein said gate means further comprises easily observable indicia making it possible to accurately identify the flow rate of said spreadable material between full flow of said gate open position and no flow of said gate closed position.

13. (original) A dual mode spreader capable of acting as a drop spreader or a broadcast spreader, said dual mode spreader comprising:

a hopper to hold a supply of spreadable material;

first and second discharge openings located within said hopper for which said spreadable material can flow therethrough;

first and second rate flow means for controlling the flow of said spreadable material through said first and second discharge openings respectively;

an impeller mounted in a position below said hopper for rotational movement about an upright axis, said first discharge opening leading to said impeller to enable said spreadable material in said hopper to exit said hopper onto said impeller to be distributed in a path outwardly therefrom during the rotational movement of said impeller; and

a diffuser defining an inlet opening and an outlet opening, said second discharge opening in communication with said diffuser inlet opening to enable said spreadable material in

said hopper to enter said diffuser and exit said diffuser at said outlet opening to be distributed in a path downwardly therefrom onto the surface to be treated.

14. (original) A dual mode spreader according to claim 13, wherein said diffuser further comprises a plurality of baffles and pins located within said diffuser that diffuse said spreadable material as said spreadable material falls therethrough to evenly distributed said spreadable material across the entire width of said outlet opening.

15. (original) A dual mode spreader according to claim 14, wherein said first and second rate flow means comprise first and second gate means respectively, said first and second gate means being independently movable between an open position wherein said spreadable material can flow through said first or second discharge opening and a closed position.

16. (original) A dual mode spreader according to claim 15, wherein said first and second gate means are incrementally adjustable between said open position and said closed position so that the flow of said spreadable material through said first and second discharge openings can be controlled.

17. (original) A dual mode spreader according to claim 16, wherein each of said first and second gate means further comprise easily observable indicia making it possible to accurately identify the flow rate of said spreadable material between full flow of said gate open position and no flow of said gate closed position.

18-30 (cancelled)

31. (previously presented) A dual mode spreader capable of acting as a drop spreader or a broadcast spreader, said dual mode spreader comprising:
a hopper to hold a supply of spreadable material;
a discharge opening located within said hopper for which said spreadable material can flow therethrough;

an impeller mounted in a position below said hopper for rotational movement about an upright axis, said discharge opening leading to said impeller to enable said spreadable material in said hopper to exit said hopper onto said impeller to distribute said spreadable material in a broadcast manner in a path outwardly therefrom during the rotational movement of said impeller; and

means for dropping said spreadable material downwardly onto the surface to be treated, said means for dropping not utilizing said impeller to distribute said spreadable material, said means for dropping being operative to distribute the spreadable material outward to a pattern wider than said discharge opening.

32. (previously presented) A spreader as set forth in claim 31 wherein said means for dropping comprises a diffuser.

33. (previously presented) A spreader as set forth in claim 30 wherein said diffuser has a generally triangular configuration.

34. (new) A dual mode spreader capable of acting as a drop spreader or a broadcast spreader, said dual mode spreader comprising:

a hopper to hold a supply of spreadable material;

a discharge opening located within said hopper for which said spreadable material can flow therethrough;

an impeller mounted in a position below said hopper for rotational movement about an upright axis, said discharge opening leading to said impeller to enable said spreadable material in said hopper to exit said hopper onto said impeller to distribute said spreadable material in a broadcast manner in a path outwardly therefrom during the rotational movement of said impeller;

means for dropping said spreadable material downwardly onto the surface to be treated, said means for dropping not utilizing said impeller to distribute said spreadable material;

ground-engaging wheels connected with the hopper for supporting the hopper on the ground;

a mechanism for transmitting rotational force of the ground-engaging wheels as they roll along the ground to the impeller to drive the impeller for rotational movement; and

a handle for enabling a user of the spreader to manually propel the hopper over a selected ground area by rolling the wheels along the ground;

wherein the means for dropping said spreadable material downwardly onto the surface to be treated is operative to distribute the spreadable material outward to a pattern wider than said discharge opening.

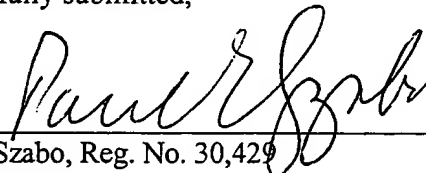
REMARKS

Applicant acknowledges the allowance of claims 1-17 and 31-33. By the present amendment, rejected claims 28 and 29 are cancelled. Claim 30, which was indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form, is rewritten in independent form as new claim 34 (claim 30 is thereby cancelled).

Applicant submits that this application is now in condition for allowance with claims 1-17 and 31-34, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 24, 2004


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